

April 2014

IN THIS EDITION



Popular egg hunt, festival this Saturday. See page 3.



Signs of new development all over Garner. See page 4.

TOWN HALL CALENDAR

April 22: Town Council meeting (7 p.m.)

April 29: Town Council work session (6 p.m.)

Meetings are in the Council Chambers in building B at Town Hall, 900 Seventh Ave. Town Council regular meetings are recorded and broadcast (not live) on GTV 11 (Time Warner 11, AT&T U-verse 99).



Follow us on Twitter (@TownofGarner) and Facebook (facebook.com/TownofGarner); watch Town videos on our YouTube channel.

GARNER UPDATE

Vol. 64, No. 70



Main Street Champion Elmo Vance (center) was recognized at the April 7 Town Council meeting. Pictured with Vance are Council Member Kathy Behringer and Garner Revitalization Association Executive Director John Hodges.

Garner Snags Raft of Awards

The Town and its partners in downtown redevelopment have raked in a number of honors recently.

Elmo Vance was honored on April 1 as a 2013 Main Street Champion at the N.C. Main Street Annual Awards Ceremony. Vance was selected by the Garner Revitalization Association for this special recognition in appreciation of his exceptional contributions to the downtown revitalization process.

In addition, a project dubbed Downtown Pop-up Shops won top honors in the category of Best Retail Promotion, receiving an Award of Merit. Downtown Pop-Up Shops are a series of temporary, or "pop-up," shops organized during downtown special events to allow local artists, creative professionals and businesses that don't have a retail presence to show and sell their products.

In other recent awards news, the Town won three Excellence in Communications Awards from N.C. City & County Communicators. The Town won first-place honors in the category of marketing tools-best use of promotional item for its [All-America City video](#), and in the category of communication technology-electronic external newsletter for the Garner Update. The Town also won second-place honors in the category of printed publications-brochures for its 2013 bond program informational brochure.

Finally, the Certificate of Achievement for Excellence in Financial Reporting was awarded to the Town's Finance Department by the Government Finance Officers Association of the United States and Canada for Garner's [comprehensive annual financial report](#) for the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2013. It is the 24th consecutive year that the Finance Department has earned the honor.



For more information on the GRA, visit downtowngarner.com.



A Message from the Mayor



Watch the mayor's "Great People in Garner" on GTV11 (Time Warner II, AT&T 99) and on demand at garnernc.gov and youtube.com/townof-garner.

I was so happy to hear the news that one of our most active citizens, Elmo Vance, was named a Main



Street Champion by the North Carolina Main Street Program. I've known Elmo for awhile and had the chance to interview him for our "Great People in Garner" television show on GTV11. He is quite simply an exemplary citizen. I don't know where he finds the time to do everything that he does.

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is quite simply an exemplary citizen. I don't know where he finds the time to do everything that he does.

Garner is moving forward, and it's all thanks to great citizens like Elmo and lots of others. We always say that it is the people who make Garner special, and it's really hard to overstate that point. Look all over town, and there are amazing people doing amazing things.

Our citizens also provide Town officials with direction. In March 2013, citizens authorized the Town to move forward with an ambitious bond program that will result in a new indoor recreation center to anchor downtown redevelopment, a new police

station and Town Hall, sidewalk and street improvements around town and other projects that will improve the quality of life in Garner.

As you can see on page four of this newsletter, that public investment is being complemented by lots of new private investment. The private investment will keep coming to Garner, because, well, as we know, Garner is a great place to be.

Ronnie S. Williams



Here's How You Get There From Here

The Town of Garner and Garner Revitalization Association are rolling out a new wayfinding sign program. The first handful of signs, including the one pictured above on Benson Road near the intersection with Garner Road, were installed on April 7. A total of 30 wayfinding signs will go up in the next several weeks.

Garner Named One of the State's Most Affordable Places

Movoto, a California-based online real estate brokerage, has ranked Garner the sixth-most affordable place in North Carolina in a blog post published April 7.

The company looked at 83 places in the state that have a population of at least 10,000 and ranked them based on food and utility costs, median home price, unemployment rate, adjusted median income and other miscellaneous factors such as cost of restaurants, repairs, entertainment and clothing.

"Overall, with a score of 96, Garner's cost of living is four points lower than the national average. Where it really shined, though, was in its low unemployment rate of just 7.5 percent, its score of 98 for miscellaneous expenses, and its score of just 100 for food," Movoto said. "This town has grown in leaps and bounds over the past several years and today continues to be one of the fastest growing in the state. In looking at the numbers, it's no wonder why."

The blog post can be found at movoto.com/blog/top-ten/most-affordable-north-carolina.

Last fall, Movoto ranked Garner as the fifth-best city or town in North Carolina. That ranking was based on cost of living, crime rate, education, median household income, home value and amenities.



All-America City Quilt Coming to Garner Later This Month

The 2013 All-America City quilt will be on public display in various locations in Garner April 21-27. Each year, finalists in the All-America City Award program submit quilt squares representing something special about their communities. The squares are stitched together into a quilt that tours the country, visiting each finalist community. Garner's square was made by Linda Junk with the non-profit group On the Mend, which is based at Garner Senior Center.

Here is the schedule for public display of the quilt in Garner:

Monday, April 21—Town Hall, building A lobby

Tuesday, April 22—Town Hall, building B lobby, including Town Council meeting at 7 p.m.

Wednesday, April 23—Southeast Regional Library

Thursday, April 24—Garner Chamber of Commerce

Friday, April 25—Garner Senior Center; Relay for Life event at Lake Benson Park (tentative)

Saturday-Sunday, April 26-27—GPAC



The Hunt Is On!

The annual Spring Eggstravaganza is **Saturday, April 12** from 10 a.m. to 1 p.m. at Lake Benson Park (921 Buffalo Road). **THE EGG HUNT WILL BE AT NOON.** Rain date is Sunday, April 13 from 1-3 p.m. The event will also feature entertainment, crafts, games and food vendors.

MORE UPCOMING EVENTS

Towne Players April 18, 19, 24, 25 & 26 at 8 PM
& April 26 at 2 PM

GHOST of a Chance
By Flip Kobler & Cindy Marcus

Garner Performing Arts Center • 742 W. Garner Road
TICKETS AVAILABLE AT THE DOOR: Adults \$15 • Seniors/Students \$12
www.towneplayersonline.org

Towne Players Production of 'Ghost of a Chance' in April

Bethany is bright, strong, independent, beautiful and has zero self-esteem. She has brought her fiancé, Floyd, and his mother, Verna, up to her cabin in the woods, the site of the hunting accident that killed Chance, her first husband. Much to her consternation, he or rather, his ghost, is still there. Only Bethany can see him, so Floyd and Verna think she is crazy as she frantically tries to get rid of, well, it seems to them nobody. Chance, meanwhile, is doing everything he can to prevent Bethany from marrying Floyd. Written by Disney veterans Flip Kobler and Cindy Marcus, this is a touching, funny story of love and redemption you're sure to enjoy. Shows at Garner Performing Arts Center are April 18-19 and 24-26 at 8 p.m. and a matinee on April 26 at 2 p.m. Tickets are \$15 (\$12 for students and seniors).



You can follow GPAC on Twitter (@GPACGarner) and Facebook.



The Lion, the Witch and the Wardrobe Comes to GPAC May 3

This enchanting musical, presented by Theatreworks USA, is based on C.S. Lewis' adventure story about four children of war-torn England who accidentally enter the land of Narnia by climbing through a magic wardrobe. The performance is Saturday, May 3 at 11 a.m. at Garner Performing Arts Center. Tickets are \$10 and can be purchased at garnerperformingartscenter.com.



Spring Big Sweep/Litter Sweep Scheduled for May 3

The spring Big Sweep/Litter Sweep in Garner will be held Saturday, May 3, with volunteers meeting at White Deer Park Nature Center at 8:30 a.m. For more information, please call the Parks, Recreation and Cultural Resources Department at (919) 773-4442.



Free Downtown Outdoor Concert Series Kicks Off May 8

The free Music Off Main Downtown Concert Series has been renamed and rebranded Downtown Sounds: Music on the Lawn. The outdoor concerts will still be held on the GPAC lawn (125 Avery St.) and will still be on Thursdays from 6-9 p.m. Shows this season include Soul Play on May 8, 40 East on May 29, The Central Park Band on June 12 and Spare Change on June 26. As in the past, there will be food and music vendors at all of the concerts. For more information, visit downtowngarner.com.



New Projects Sprout Up All Over Town

Springtime in Garner this year means the blossoming of new development all around town.

A number of significant commercial and residential projects are either under way or are getting ready to begin pretty soon. Perhaps the most notable and visible project is the new construction on the northeast quadrant at the intersection of U.S. 70 and White Oak/Jones Sausage Road, directly across from White Oak Crossing shopping center.

The big draw at that location will be North Carolina's first Cabela's, a megastore that sells outdoor, camping and hunting gear. Construction on the store is expected to begin in June, with a completion date about a year after that. The 100,000-square-foot store is projected to employ 225 full-time, part-time and seasonal workers, according to a news release issued by the Nebraska-based company.

The northeast quadrant will also eventually include a seven-story, 180-room Drury Inn and a couple of national restaurants. Details on the hotel and restaurants have yet to be released, but announcements on the restaurants could come soon, according to the developer, Core Properties.

There's also a major project under way in the existing White Oak Crossing shopping center. The parcel behind the TGIF restaurant will be home to a Burlington Coat Factory, a new Staples and a Dollar Tree. That construction is projected to be completed later this summer if the weather cooperates.

Several other commercial projects either are under way or have been approved. On U.S. 401 in front of Walmart, a Murphy Oil and Mattress Firm are being built. Meanwhile, a new Walgreen's will be constructed on U.S. 70 West



ABOVE: An aerial photo shows the land directly across from White Oak Crossing having been cleared for development.

Cabela's is expected to start construction on the land in June. **RIGHT:** The Timber Spring senior living apartments will have 48 units and should be ready by December. Pre-leasing starts in September.



across from Garner Towne Square shopping center.

Then there's the highly anticipated Aldi grocery store approved for the site behind the CVS at Timber Drive and Aversboro Road. That's expected to open this fall. The site is currently being cleared, and construction should begin soon.

On the residential side, two big apartment projects are well under way. The Timber Spring senior living apartments at Timber Drive and N.C. 50 will have 48 units and should be completed by December,

with pre-leasing starting in September. And on Timber Drive East, good progress is being made on the 336-unit Adeline at White Oak apartments.

Other development includes Wake PMC, a stair manufacturer, which will locate at 201 Hein Drive in White Oak Business Park, and the AgriSupply/Direct Distributors project next to East Garner Magnet Middle School, which is coming along quite nicely.

All told, there are plenty of signs that Garner is on the move.



The Town will provide updates on new development projects on Twitter (@TownofGarner) and Facebook.